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CALIFORNIA'S HEALTH

WILTON L. HALVERSON, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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LOS ANGELES' HEALTH IN 1944

Dr. George M. Uhl City Health Officer of Los Angeles, has issued the following report on health conditions in Los Angeles during 1944:

"At 1944's end, Los Angeles was running a temperature, but it could hardly be said to have had a high-grade fever. The city had passed its third war year bulging with an over-crowded population, and it had been hit by a few wartime diseases, none of which reached epidemic proportions. Its health, while good, was far from perfect.

"Once again, with extraordinary cooperation from the community, major health emergencies had been averted. For a need which the U. S. Public Health Service said was $2,000,000, the city had frugally spent $900,000. Sorely needed to tackle critical problems were equipment, facilities, and personnel.

"The city had closed its purse to many exigencies, but for every Health Department dollar it spent it had driven a good bargain. It managed to keep its milk supply pure through inspections in 1,400 dairies and milk stations as far as 300 miles from Los Angeles. It maintained safe conduct for food in 8,000 bakeries, dairies, restaurants, and 3,000 markets. It kept a watchful eye on health conditions in 900 industries, 15,000 hotels and apartments, 4,000 barber shops and miscellaneous businesses, and 100 poultry and rabbit abattoirs. It pushed some diseases downward and kept others from skyrocketing by making 85,000 home calls, giving 300,000 treatments, and having full cooperation from the medical profession.

"To do all this, the department placed its 426 employees where they could least be spared, dropped less pressing issues, asked and got public support. Los Angeles' aches were familiar ones.

"Again in 1944, tuberculosis, with 966 deaths, was second only to accidents in the toll of human life under 45 years of age, but its mortality rate had dropped two-thirds in the last quarter century. Meanwhile, although operating one of the largest ambulatory pneumothorax clinics in the country, the department could not accommodate all who came for tubercular care.

"Syphilis, with nearly 12,000 cases, led all other communicable diseases, its reported number still climbing as public awareness led to greater search for it. Venereal disease clinics, handling 200,000 patient-visits in the busiest year of their history, looked forward to the relief that would come with expanded postwar facilities.

"Diseases which spread with crowding made stubborn advances, the most serious threat coming from diphtheria, which struck more victims and took more lives in Los Angeles than in any other large American city. Its 330 cases and 23 deaths had reached what is hoped to be the crest of a wave that started in 1942, when war crowding began to revive the disease after it had almost been obliterated here. The department undertook a large-scale educational campaign, increased immunizations 50 per cent to 95 per cent to throw up a barrier that may turn the tide in 1945.

"But other diseases continued to decline. 1944 was the fifth consecutive year without a case of smallpox, and typhoid remained a grey shadow of its past formidable self. No cases of human rabies were recorded, and the trial operation of the 90-day leash law, in which dog bites dropped 41 per cent and animal rabies fell 37 per cent, demonstrated that the present permanent law held much promise for 1945 and following.

"The population of rats shrank considerably, but is estimated to remain above 1,000,000. The city could take comfort from the fact that its rats had an average of only two fleas each, whereas the danger signal is four. The department trapped rats throughout the city, dissected 12,000 to make certain that none were disease-bearing. Greatest hope came from 1944's rodent-control ordinance, which required shelter destruction, blockade, starvation, and poison for this most expensive parasite of man.

"Living space for the human population was crammed, but less so than in 1943. Greatest over-con-

centration was in single hotel rooms used as family residences; from these, and other makeshift dwellings lacking the bare essentials of housing sanitation, the department evicted 700 families.

"A record year for restaurant sanitation-enforcement, the department closed 134 extremely unclean eating places, formally heard operators of 1,600 others, took legal action that brought 157 convictions. In voluntarily-attended education programs, the department gave courses in food care to 1,000 food handlers. Through these measures, and with the assistance of the restaurant industry, food poisonings ran 25 per cent below the five-year average.

"As a beginning in mosquito control, the department collected and hatched 11,000 larvae, identified and mapped 21 species, found only one serious malaria victor, but many that might carry encephalomyelitis. Twenty-two known breeding areas were completely wiped out and 29 others were under temporary control.

"Accident and disease still held a depressing hand on the life-span of Los Angeles' people, but the average age at death crept up 73 days during 1944 to reach 58.31 years. More dollars for public health could easily amputate the fingers of this depressing hand."

FELLOWSHIPS IN HEALTH EDUCATION—1945

Fellowships for a year's graduate study in health education leading to a master's degree in public health are being offered to qualified men and women by the U. S. Public Health Service through funds made available by the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis. The sponsors of the fellowships are concerned chiefly with meeting the existing shortage of trained health educators and preparing to meet future demands both in this Country and abroad for qualified personnel having a thorough understanding of both public health and education.

What Do Fellowships Provide?

Training—A year's study in public health education at the University of North Carolina, Yale University or the University of Michigan. This training includes an academic year (8-9 months) in the Schools of Public Health, and three months of supervised field experience in community health education. Courses studied in the Schools of Public Health include:

Epidemiology, Public Health Statistics, Public Administration, Public Speaking, Health Education, Public Health Education Problems, School Health Education, etc.

Upon successful completion of the course, the candidate is eligible for a master's degree in public health education.

Financial Aid—The fellowships provide a stipend of $100 a month for the entire period of academic and field training, tuition at one of the above three universities, and travel expenses for the field experience. Candidates must pay their own travel to and from the university at the beginning and end of training.

When Are Fellowships Effective?

Fellowships will be effective for the fall collegiate quarter of 1945.

Who Is Eligible?

Fellowships are available to qualified men and women between the ages of 22 and 40 who are citizens of the United States.

Candidates must meet the entrance requirements of the schools of Public Health, which include a bachelor's degree from a recognized college or university. Desirable prerequisites include training and/or experience in the basic sciences, sociology, education and psychology, plus the ability to use the English language effectively and to work with all kinds of people.

Nurses—At the present time, nurses may apply for fellowships. If the needs of the war are such that by June 1st nurses are urgently required by the armed forces, the procurement and Assignment Service has indicated that they may request the withdrawal of fellowship applications of nurses.

Men—Men may apply for fellowships at the present time. If, however, by June 1st, the War Manpower Commission finds it necessary to eliminate certain classifications from eligibility, their applications will have to be withdrawn.

Employees of State and local health departments—These fellowships are not available to employees of health departments, State or local, because if the States so desire they may pay for the training of their own personnel in the Schools of Public Health.

How Does One Apply for a Fellowship?

Application forms can be obtained from the Surgeon General, U. S. Public Health Service, Washington 14, D. C. Be sure to enclose two small photographs of yourself, an official transcript of your college credits, and a 300-500 word analysis of why you are interested in the profession of health education. Applications must be in the Surgeon General's office by June 1, 1945.

What Are the Obligations of a Recipient of a Fellowship?

To pay own travel to and from University at beginning and end of course.

To go to university with an open mind.

To learn as much as possible.

To fill a position he or she selects after the year's training. It is hoped that Fellows will see fit to do public health education work.

Miscellaneous Information

Applicants may be required to furnish a certificate of good health or medical examination before final awarding of fellowships.

In awarding fellowships, the committee will make every effort to send the student to the university of first choice. In some cases this is impossible, and he or she will be sent to the school of second choice.

The Public Health Service and the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis assume no responsibility for placing Fellows in positions after completion of training.

BEACH QUARANTINE CONTINUED

State enforcement of the quarantine of Los Angeles beaches in Santa Monica Bay will be intensified with the opening of the summer recreation season.

Four State officers will be assigned on June 1st to the Los Angeles city and county health departments, he said, to help local inspectors enforce the quarantine excluding persons from the 10 miles of sewage-polluted beaches which constitute the greater portion of the beaches of Santa Monica Bay and are the beaches most accessible to the people of Los Angeles.

Extensive surveys have shown that the beaches from Redondo Beach to Santa Monica are polluted by the sewage of Los Angeles city. The State's quarantine can not be lifted, until Los Angeles city makes such radical improvements in its sewage disposal system at Hyperion as are provided for in the $10,000,000 bond issue to be voted on by the citizens of Los Angeles on April 3d.

Nowhere in California does sewage disposal affect the lives and recreation of so many people as in Los Angeles. Twenty million people frequented these beaches annually until their use was banned by the State.

The money now spent by Los Angeles people to reach the more distant, uncontaminated beaches would pay off the whole sewer bond issue in less than four years, the State Department of Public Health estimated from its 1942-43 studies of the use of these beaches.

Review of the specifications for the proposed sewage disposal project at Hyperion, as soon as the $10,000,000 bond issue to be voted on on April 3d assures its construction, has been requested by the City of Los Angeles.

Before constructing sanitation projects, all cities must obtain permission from the State Board of Public Health, he pointed out, in order to insure that the projects will meet the standards set by the board under the State Health and Safety Code.

To prevent future insanitary conditions, the detailed specifications of the Hyperion project will be carefully reviewed by the department's experts on sewage disposal before the city invests in its construction. Public hearings on the project may be held also.

A modern sewage disposal system, which passage of the bond issue will provide, will make it possible to open up to recreationists the 10 miles of Santa Monica Bay beaches now quarantined by the State, and will lay the groundwork for the construction of sewer systems in the districts, such as San Fernando Valley, which now rely on cesspools as a temporary wartime measure.

BETTER FARM HOME AND FAMILY LIVING

The Placer County Agricultural Economic Conference at a recent meeting held in Auburn made worthy recommendations for better farm home and family living. These recommendations follow:

1. The health of the farm family is of course of paramount importance; therefore:
   i. We recommend that a thorough study be made of medical services, both volutary and compulsory, and any system that is adopted not only cover the farm laborer, but also the farmer and his family; we further recommend that the services adopted be so arranged as to induce competent medical men to participate in the program;
   ii. We recommend that the County Health Unit plan submitted to the Board of Supervisors by the County Medical Association in 1944 be adopted in Placer County;
   iii. We recommend a mosquito abatement program for Placer County;
   iv. We recommend that an educational program be conducted in the interest of purification of domestic water.
2. More and more we are becoming acquainted with deep freezing; therefore:
   i. We recommend that any farm family contemplating home fast freezer lockers study University of California Extension Service specifications before buying or building.
   ii. We recommend an educational program on the possibilities of using fast frozen foods be conducted.
3. Plans for postwar reconversion and rehabilitation should be formulated without delay. With demobilization of many camps, hospitals, and other wartime facilities, we recommend that these facilities be made available direct to the rural communities without passing through the hands of dealers. We feel that this method of distribution would not hinder industry in the postwar period, but would make available to these groups facilities that would not otherwise be available.
4. We recommend that materials be made available for the improvement and expansion of rural telephone lines.
5. We recommend electricity be distributed more through the rural districts in Placer County, especially the western part.
6. We recommend that all organizations, schools, and churches further study the need for more supervised recreation.

7. We reaffirm the position taken by the Economic Conference in 1941 regarding the following:
   i. In view of the Federal Government's request for a large quantity of vegetables for processing, coupled with the prospect of lessened facilities for the distribution of fresh vegetables, we recommend in the interest of both economy and good nutrition the growing of a family garden on every farm.
   ii. We recommend that farm families make every effort to make each farm as nearly self-sufficient from the standpoint of food production as possible. This would mean not only a family garden, but a farm flock of poultry, a family cow, and some other kind of livestock.
8. In 1941 we recommended that the farm family practice economy wherever possible and that every effort be made to save money to invest in defense bonds in order to insure some cash income. We now recommend that these defense bonds be held over until maturity and not spent in time of reconversion that might cause unprecedented inflation.

HOW TO REPORT SEROLOGICAL TESTS

Development of rapid treatment for syphilis and increased reliance on serological tests as an indication of progress and cure of the disease have resulted in greater demands for quantitative serologic determinations. Opinion has been expressed from various sources regarding the desirability of a uniform reporting procedure. For this reason the State Laboratory has adopted the following system (based on that devised by Kahn for Quantitative Kahn Tests) for the dilution of serums and spinal fluids on which quantative determinations are to be made and for reporting results by the quantitative Kolmer technique. This system of reporting can be adapted to any quantative serologic test.

In the case of blood, 0.2 cc. is used in the first dilution tube and serial two-fold dilutions are made in succeeding tubes. In the case of spinal fluid, 0.5 cc. is used in the first tube and diluted as for blood. Ordinarily six dilutions are made in the case of blood tests and five for spinal fluids, but further dilutions are often necessary to determine the end point of the titre.

The results of the tests are reported as follows: The serial dilutions are listed 0, 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, etc. and below each figure the reading of the corresponding tube is indicated. The titre is then expressed in units which are determined by the following formula: S=4D, S being the potency of the serum and D the highest dilution giving a 4, 3, or 2 plus reaction. One plus and plus minus readings are considered negative. If the specimen is positive in the undiluted state only, the number of units is equal to the plus reading of the test; i.e., 1, 2, 3, or 4.

In order to obtain a uniform system of reporting, it is recommended that this procedure be adopted by all laboratories in reporting quantative serologic tests. Details of Kahn's procedure can be obtained on pages 132 to 136 of "Kahn Test. A Practical Guide." R. L. Kahn, Williams Wilkins Co., publishers, 1928. These procedures are also given in the pamphlet "Technique of the Standard Kahn Test and Special Kahn Procedures," University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. October, 1944.

RABID GOAT WITH LONG INCUBATION PERIOD

Bitten on the nose, ear, neck and hind leg February 2, 1945, in a fierce battle with a spitz dog later found laboratory-positive for rabies, a goat in Los Angeles showed no clinical signs of rabies until March 15th—an incubation period of 42 days.

The owner of the goat, after the dog had been proved rabid, decided to keep the animal for its milk, rather than destroy it as had been suggested by the Los Angeles health department. Weekly observations were made of the animal for 21 days after its fracas with the dog, following these visits with semiweekly trips after the 21-day period had passed. On the forty-second day, the goat began to attack every moving object in its sight, from blades of grass in its pen to moving spectators outside the pen, rebounding from the fence shrieking and leaping up to charge again.

The animal being too wild for one person to handle, the Los Angeles Humane Department was called for aid. Even with the assistance of the humane officer, it was impossible to restrain the goat, so the decision was made to shoot it. The humane officer entered the pen, was immediately attacked, and discharged both barrels of his shot-gun at the goat, blowing off its head. While it was impossible to gather enough brain matter for laboratory examination, there is no question of the goat's infection with rabies.

STATE FREE OF EPIDEMICS OF DISEASE

There were no critical communicable disease situations in California during March. Because of the prevalence of chickenpox, several cases of suspected smallpox were reported. Upon investigation, all of them proved to be chickenpox. During the month, chickenpox, measles, mumps, and scarlet fever were the most prevalent of the common communicable diseases. There were but 88 cases of diptheria reported throughout the State during March, and only seven cases of epidemic poliomyelitis. Typhoid fever reached a low point with only four cases reported during March.

INSTITUTES ON MATERNITY NURSING

PURPOSE

Five one-week institutes on maternity nursing have been arranged by the Bureau of Maternal and Child Health and Public Health Nursing of the State Department of Public Health. The institutes have been planned to meet the needs of public health nurses and of hospital nurses who are responsible for the care of mothers and babies.

PROGRAM

The institutes will be conducted by Miss Anita M. Jones, Assistant Director, Maternity Center Association of New York. Miss Jones is a recognized authority on maternity nursing and has conducted institutes in most of the 48 States and British Columbia. The institutes will provide up-to-date information about nursing throughout the maternity cycle and will develop a greater appreciation of the interrelationship of the hospital and other community facilities in providing continuity of nursing care for the maternity patient and her infant. The content of the program is as follows:

Antepartum care	one day
Labor, delivery, postpartum and newborn care, including premature care	three days
Classes for expectant parents	one day

DATES AND PLACES

Each institute will be held for five days from Monday through Friday of the week for which it is scheduled. There will be morning and afternoon sessions. The beginning dates and places are given below:

May 21—Auditorium, Stanford School of Nursing, San Francisco.
May 28—Civic Auditorium, 15th and J streets, Sacramento.
June 4—Room 202, Roosevelt Junior High School, Fresno.
June 11—East Los Angeles Health Center, 670 South Ferris Avenue, Los Angeles.
June 18—East Los Angeles Health Center, 670 South Ferris Avenue, Los Angeles.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Any nurse who holds a registered nurse license in California or in some other State is eligible for admission. One copy of the enclosed registration form should be submitted to the Bureau of Public Health Nursing, 509 Phelan Building, 760 Market Street, San Francisco 2, not later than 10 days prior to the opening of the institute the nurse plans to attend. Additional forms may be secured from the Bureau of Public Health Nursing. There is no registration or tuition fee. Students will be responsible for making their own living arrangements. A reading list will be sent to each nurse upon receipt of her registration for one of the institutes.

STIPENDS

A limited number of stipends are available to nurses who live beyond commuting distance to the cities where the institutes will be held. Each stipend consists of $25 to be used in meeting living expenses. Stipends are available only to those nurses who attend for the entire week. Applications for stipends for the institutes in San Francisco and Sacramento must be submitted not later than May 10th. Applications for stipends for the institutes in Fresno and Los Angeles should be submitted by May 21st.

MUSSEL QUARANTINE ORDER ISSUED

A quarantine is hereby established of all mussels from the ocean shore of California extending from the California-Oregon boundary south to the California-Mexico boundary, including the Bay of San Francisco, prohibiting the taking, sale or offering for sale, of mussels in or from this designated area, except that permission is granted to take mussels for use as fish bait, provided such mussels shall be rendered unfit for food purposes by processing with salt and provided further that the containers in which these processed mussels are placed, shall be adequately labeled in bold-faced gothic type letters at least one-half inch in height, as follows:

"For Fish Bait Only—Unfit for Human Consumption"

All health officers and food inspectors are hereby instructed to enforce the provisions of this quarantine order which shall be effective from May 1 to October 31, 1945. It is established for the preservation of the public health and is in addition to those regulations establishing permanent quarantines on shell fish because of sewage pollution.

The health officers of the coastal and bay counties are instructed to post suitable placards in conspicuous places advising the public of this quarantine.

The placards, in addition to the mussel quarantine notice, shall also warn the public that clams should be cleaned and washed thoroughly before cooking and that all dark parts should be discarded because the poison when present during May to October would be concentrated in dark parts. Only the white meat should be prepared for human consumption.

WILTON L. HALVERSON, M.D.
Director of Public Health
and Executive Secretary,
State Board of Public Health.

May 1, 1945.

HEALTH EDUCATION IN 1873

In his report to the Governor, July 1, 1873, Dr. Thomas M. Logan, Secretary of the California State Board of Health, made the following statement relative to health education which shows an early-day appreciation of this important activity:

"In its practical application to communities, sanitary science in this, as in every other particular, has the same difficulties to overcome here, as it has encountered everywhere. Restriction in long established habits of life and business are submitted to slowly and with much reluctance. Personal convenience rises in antagonism to the principle, which requires each member of society to yield something of individual comfort for the general good. The people require to be educated to such necessity, and the importance of the sacrifice of their own convenience or personal interest. They are to learn that the record proof of the birth, marriage, or death of any person, or of all persons, may become of great importance from a legal standpoint; that the statistics derived therefrom furnish a sure index to the prosperity of the State in the number of births and marriages; that they supply data upon which governments, communities, and life insurancers may base their action; and that they furnish knowledge of unfavorable locations and conditions, which, when known, may be avoided, and the struggle for life thereby rendered easier and more certain of success. It is a melancholy fact that this knowledge, of such great import and utility, never reaches the great mass of mankind. There is a too general ignorance of the fact that those who are, or who act nearest in harmony with the conditions in which they are placed, or control them the best, live the healthiest and happiest lives, and that the greatest amount of sickness, suffering, and death is the portion of those who disregard the laws of nature and do not live in harmony with their surroundings. Thus it seems true, now as ever, that the people die for lack of knowledge, and the question forces itself upon us: How can we do justice to ourselves, our office, and the community, unless we speak out strongly and continuously until we are heard and heeded? Being only an advisory, and not an executive arm of the State, the most that we can do is to make recommendations to the Legislature, and to teach the people that there is a way of life, and that those who seek may find it. This we have done and will continue to do by means of our reports, lectures, and other publications, especially at times of impending danger from epidemic visitations.

"There is another medium by which such teaching has been conveyed, and that is through the medical profession, which has almost exclusive possession of the information to which we refer, whether it be philosophical knowledge of the causes of disease and death, or simply empirical knowledge of prevention and cure, gained either by the accumulated experience of generation after generation, or the patient investigations of scientific explorers. Through the liberality and enlightened foresight of our Legislature, the information from this source is annually spread out on the pages of the transactions of our State Medical Society, at the expense of the State, and thus made accessible to all who wish to avail themselves of it.

"There are also other measures, which we can only suggest, and which it remains for our legislators to enforce. I would instance, particularly, the imposition of compulsory penalties and fines. Besides these, there is still another instrumentality, by means of which the leading scientists of Great Britain have lately done so much. I refer to their efforts in the direction of science teaching schools. Through the Board of Regents of our State University, the State Board of Education, and the numerous city and county school boards, there is offered a grand field for just such efforts in turning the direction of the vast current of study among the young of both sexes, towards that knowledge which tends directly to the preservation of life, and which is, therefore, worthy of a far higher consideration than that which tends simply to the adornment of society. It affords me unqualified satisfaction to be able to state, that in compliance with the expressed wishes of the indefatigable President of our State University, the Regents have taken the initiative, not only in establishing a professorship of sanitary science in the curriculum of the medical department, but also purpose making it a part of this professorship to give such instruction to the students in the academic department, so that every graduating class can go out propertly informed in the great art of preserving the individual and the public health. It remains for our city and county educational boards to follow this praiseworthy example.

"Doubtless there are to be found many, among the well-informed members of the medical profession, scattered throughout the State, and looked up to wherever there is a cluster of people intent upon educating their children, who would cheerfully cooperate in any scheme that may be devised for the dissemination of the knowledge they possess of the prevention of disease and death, of which the people have no conception whatever. A common regard for the interests of mankind demand it of them.

"In what does our present advanced civilization differ from the less enlightened state of past ages? Is it not in our more perfect adaptation to and control over our own surroundings, and is not a still further advance rendered possible by the increased knowledge of the laws which govern them? By obedience to these laws, man is but placing himself in harmony with those of nature, where the reign of law is universal; and, as all man's command—all his powers over the forces of nature—are embraced in his knowledge of law, so, when he works in harmony with it, are those forces his servants, and when he does not work in harmony with law, are they terrible and destructive masters. The people need to know all this; they need to know that the teachings of modern science show that disease is not a thing or entity, as formerly believed, to come arbitrarily, or as a special visitation of an overruling power, but a state or modification of health, a perverted physiological process. To the charlatan, disease is a set of symptoms to be attacked by a variety of drugs—a drug for each symptom; but to the enlightened physician it is, in reality, but the

course of nature in a living thing, which is not health. In health, the balance of functions is even; incline it to either side, and there is disease. That being so, just as the life process constitutes an individual, and puts him apart from his fellows, so must any alteration in it be individual, and not general. Such are the modern ideas of the nature of disease, and the people need to know that these advances in our knowledge have ever been made by the labor of men devoted to science and the search of truth for its own sake; and that when we ask our legislators for laws, and the enforcement of those laws, to enable us to give the people, whose interest they represent, positive information, based upon demonstrative truth concerning self-preservation, and the measures enumerated in the schedule of subjects embraced in the code of public health, we ask it in behalf of the masses, and not because it is essential either to our own safety or emolument."

TUBERCULOSIS IN STATE HOSPITALS

A total of 3,588 patients in Napa State Hospital have been X-rayed for tuberculosis. Of these, 186 (5.2 per cent) had findings consistent with definite pulmonary tuberculosis. These may be classified as 95 minimal, 66 moderately advanced, and 25 far advanced. These figures indicate an abnormally high percentage of frank open cases of tuberculosis. In addition to the patients with definite evidence of tuberculosis, there were 141 (3.9 per cent) with findings suspicious of pulmonary tuberculosis, 43 (1.2 per cent) with pleurisy or thickened pleura, and 56 (1.5 per cent) with abnormal cardiac and aortic conditions. The survey has served to reveal the extent of the tuberculosis problem in this hospital. With appropriate check-up of patients at regular intervals and proper segregation, it is believed that the tuberculosis picture may change considerably in this institution.

X-RAY EXPOSURE

Increasing interest is being shown by the medical profession of the possibility of damage to X-ray technicians from harmful quantities of X-ray in the normal operation of fluoroscopic photographic equipment. In one study made during the month on such a unit, it was found that the operator and assistant were each exposed to a quantity of X-ray on each picture such that the safe average number of pictures per day which could be taken by any one operator was 160. Since good practice dictates that a liberal factor of safety ought to be present, it is apparent that the possibilities of damage to X-ray technicians by X-ray is by no means a theoretical one. The time is rapidly approaching when the checking of all X-ray equipment at regular intervals for the intensity of exposure of the operator will be routine.

HEARING CONSERVATION

Institutes in city and county schools, educational clinics, and lectures to senior students at teachers' colleges were given by the Hearing Conservation Specialist and the Consultant in Education of the Hard of Hearing, State Department of Education. Lectures were given to senior students at Claremont, Chico State College, University of California, and College of the Pacific. Total attendance was 219. The purpose of the lectures was to inform the seniors who will be teachers next year about the problems of hard of hearing children and how the teachers can assist by detecting children who are hard of hearing and can give educational guidance to those who need it in the schoolroom. It is planned to give these lectures to all teachers' colleges of the State each year.

The institutes were given to teachers in Atascadero, Paso Robles, Santa Monica, Norwalk, Santa Ana, Redondo Beach, and Compton. A total attendance of 500 was tabulated. Educational clinics in which children were tested and their problems discussed before school staffs and teachers were held in Arroyo Grande, San Luis Obispo, and Monterey city schools, with an attendance of 100. Total attendance at lectures, institutes, and clinics was 819 persons, with 18 children tested.

Staff conferences were also held at Santa Monica, Ventura County, Inglewood, San Joaquin County Health Department, Monterey County Health Department and County Schools, and San Francisco State College.

Technicians were trained at Shasta County (2) and Merced County Schools. Eight new audiometers were reported sold during the month.

DEATH COMES TO DR. KROUT

Dr. Boyd M. Krout, Assistant Health Officer of the San Joaquin Health District, Stockton, died suddenly May 4, 1945. He was born in Dresden, Ohio, and received his education at Ohio State University. He was en route west following graduation from Harvard Medical School when World War I was declared. He immediately enlisted and spent two years overseas with the medical corps, attaining the rank of major.

In his unit was Dr. William Friedberger and it was Dr. Friedberger who later persuaded Dr. Krout to join the staff of San Joaquin General Hospital. At that time Dr. Krout was serving in the Veterans' Bureau in San Francisco. He came to Stockton in 1921 and was with the hospital until 1927 when Dr. John J. Sippy asked for his services in the clinic of the health center.

HAZARD IN LEAD EXPOSURE

A study was made in a plant during the month which manufactures lead dust. The lead dust is used in the manufacture of a special training projectile for small caliber guns. The lead is mixed with a plastic in small percentage. When these projectiles strike the proper type of target, they disintegrate to dust by the force of impact. This so-called frangible bullet has remarkable possibilities for training purposes. For training aircraft gunners by the use of this projectile, the guns can actually be fired, since it will not penetrate the plane but will disintegrate.

The lead powder is produced by blowing molten lead with compressed air into a suction chamber from which it is conducted to a cyclone dust collector and bag filter. Lead powder is dropped into a hopper below the cyclone dust collector and passed over an agitated screen and thence into metal drums in which it is shipped.

In all parts of the plant, exposures were above the recommended safe limit. In most locations, the concentrations were many times the safe limit. The workers are required to wear respirators. Respirators are not satisfactory for control of such exposures as this. Urine samples were collected from two of the workers and showed extremely high concentrations. The chances of lead poisoning in this plant are grave. More complete medical control and engineering control by exhaust ventilation were recommended.

TRAINING CLASSES FOR FOOD HANDLERS

Having completed a series of in-service training classes for food handlers in Sacramento, a similar activity has been started in Los Angeles. Discussions have also been held with staff members at a State institution relative to the inclusion of food sanitation in a vocational rehabilitation program for prisoners. Further work is contemplated in Ventura and Tulare counties.

TUBERCULOSIS NURSING INSTITUTES CONDUCTED

Thirteen one-day institutes on tuberculosis nursing were held in 13 cities in this State during March, with a total attendance of 912 individuals, 722 of whom were public health nurses. A member of the staff of the Community Service Society of New York City was the speaker at each institute.

MATERNITY HOSPITAL INSPECTIONS

The department has received considerable assistance from the State Fire Marshal's office in the inspection of maternity hospitals and homes for fire safety. This service is valuable in decreasing hazards in substandard buildings which may be needed for maternity hospitalization for the duration. Meetings have been held with individual physicians and groups in Glenn and Butte counties to interpret maternity hospital standards and to discuss problems involved. A number of hospitals are now working on plans for postwar maternity units. Discussions have been held with the architects for several hospitals relative to the construction of maternity units in institutions to be built in the postwar period. Hospital nursing consultants have made individual visits to many maternity hospitals and homes throughout the State, giving advice relative to the department's regulations for the control of such places.

SCHOOL HEALTH EDUCATION ADVANCES

A joint committee on school health, with representations from the State Department of Education and the State Department of Public Health, has been established. Interest is centered in the San Joaquin Valley Health Education Project, which has been financed under the Kellogg Foundation. Interest in school health education is advancing, in Yuba County; in Santa Barbara County, where teachers and nurses are considering the responsibilities of the classroom teacher in health education; in San Francisco, at a session of the annual Teachers' Institute, where a panel discussion was held on trends in school health education. Similar developments in the advancement of health education are noted in Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange, Tulare, and Fresno counties.

EMERGENCY MATERNITY AND INFANT CARE

During March, 2,513 new maternity cases were given authorization for payments under the Emergency Maternity and Infant Care Program. Authorizations were given also for 316 infant care cases. Total disbursements during the month reached $346,000.

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